

# Clifton Avenue Church of God

## Pastoral Ponderings

Well summer is gone and the leaves are beginning to change. My highlight was the weekend under the BIG Tent and all the people of the neighborhood who celebrated the 4th of July with us. I don't say enough how much I love the spirit of cooperation and compassion that graces our existence at the Clifton Ave. Church of God. Thank you for all you do to touch broken peoples' lives.

As you receive this, my wife & I are off to Brooklyn, New York to celebrate Sis. Hattie Downer's 95th birthday with a special appreciation banquet. Keep us in your prayers.

You won't want to miss our preaching services for October. Theme: Royal Pains; we will look at leadership lessons from the Kings of Israel & Judah to see how people get in or out of trouble in troubled times.

The kids are back on Wednesday nights and Sis. Debbie has programmed an awesome schedule of learning, fun, & food that will touch our community kids. We want to increase our kids outreach on Sunday mornings so Bro. Charlie Phillips has come up with an idea to motivate inviting family & friends. Come hear about the Jar of Joy on Sunday, Oct. 4th in our worship service.

Our WCG Women are preparing for this year's Christ Birthday offering & I want to borrow an idea from one of our sister churches to see if we can raise a big offering for Jesus this Christmas!

I spent 3 days in Olathe, Kansas with a bunch of Church Planters and received great encouragement at the C.M.A. conference "Chase the Dream." Their leader, Robin Wood, will be with us on November 12-15, put it on your calendar, invite your neighbor and friends. Your life is about to change.

Love & Prayers,  
Pastor Dave

## Counseling Corner The Road To Recovery

### HUMILITY

#### Giving Up Control

Read: **Jeremiah 18:1-6**

Giving up control may be difficult for us. When we get ready for God to remove our shortcomings, we still may want to control how he does it. We are so used to calling the shots that we'll ask for God's help as long as he does it on our terms. We may demand that the changes happen on our timetable or in the order we feel ready to give them up.

God doesn't work that way. That is why **HUMILITY** is such an important part of life (especially in the life of recovery). God told Jeremiah to go to the potter's shop to learn a lesson. *Jeremiah said, "I did as he told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so the potter squashed the jar into a lump of clay and started again. Then the LORD gave me this message..." "Can I not do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in potter's hand, so are you in my hand"* (Jeremiah 18:3-6). *God told Isaiah, "Destruction is certain for those who argue with their Creator. Does a clay pot ever argue with its maker? Does the clay dispute with the one who shapes it, saying,*

*'Stop, you are doing it wrong!' Does the pot exclaim, 'How clumsy can you be!'"*

(Isaiah 45:9)

When we put our life in God's hands, he will reshape us as he sees fit. It is our **HUMILITY** that allows us to accept the fact that he is the Creator. Our new life may be similar to the one we left behind or entirely different. God is the master craftsman. Whatever he does, we can trust that he will recreate our life beautifully, once we get out of his way-so please...**Move out the Way-Let God have His Way!"**

OCTOBER

2009

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# October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 M&M: 5:30-7pm	2 C.R.: 5:30-7pm	3 Elders Meeting 11am
4	5 Paige Herron Bday	6 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	7 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	8 M&M: 5:30-7pm	9 C.R.: 5:30-7pm Janice Cum- ming Bday	10 Pantry: 930- Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry Pastor David Bday Drama Ministry 6-8pm
11	12	13 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	14 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	15 M&M: 5:30-7pm	16 C.R.: 5:30-7pm	17 Pantry: 930- Breakfast 10-11:30-Pantry Fall Cleaning Party 11:30-4:30
18	19 Larry & Laura's Anniv.	20 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	21 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	22 M&M: 5:30-7pm	23 C.R.: 5:30-7pm	24 Drama Ministry 6-8pm
25	26	27 Narcotics Anonymous 7-8:30pm	28 Crusaders 6-7:15pm	29 M&M: 5:30-7pm	30 C.R.: 5:30-7pm Nicholas Linster Bday	31 Pastor Tina Bday

# Pastor Debbie's Corner

## Drama Ministry Coming Soon

**Saturday, October 10 & 24, 6-8pm in the church library**

We are beginning a new ministry...a drama team. It will be a fun ministry which will train us to present God's truth in dramatic fashion. We will be especially working on our Christmas program to be performed Sunday morning, December 6.

All those who love Jesus are welcome to join us and see what this group is all about. No experience is necessary. We are looking forward to seeing you there!

**Elders Meeting  
Saturday, October 3, 11am**

All pastoral staff and elders are asked to meet to dream and plan together. Please be prepared to inform us on your area of ministry and bring copies of any reports to share with the group. Remember to bring your personal calendar to aid us in planning for the future. We appreciate your prayers as we prepare to come together.

For those who would like to join us, we will go to lunch afterwards, Dutch treat

October is National Pastor's Appreciation Month. It is a great time for us to be able to express our love for our pastors and their families. Here are a few ways you can show your appreciation for all they do for the Lord and our church...

- Buy a restaurant gift certificate
- Send a card
- Bring a meal to their home for their family to enjoy
- Write a letter and tell them of your love and care
- Baby-sit their child so they can have an evening out
- Offer to do chores for them such as raking leaves, cleaning gutters, or mowing grass
- Pool resources with others in the congregation to provide an overnight get-away at a hotel or bed and breakfast within driving distance
- Collect a special love offering for the pastoral families
- Send encouraging emails and e-cards



For more ideas, go to <http://www.parsonage.org/cam/index.cfm>

Pastors David & Tina Cotto  
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Springfield, OH 45502  
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## Clifton Ave. Programs

### Pantry Outreach

Every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday  
9:30am Breakfast  
10:00-11:30 Pantry

If you want to volunteer, contact Sis  
Debbie Hilliard

[uniqueblessed@aol.com](mailto:uniqueblessed@aol.com) (937) 324-1138

### Crusaders

Starts Wed., Sept. 16th at 6pm.

### Study for Transformational Change

Thursdays 4:00-5:00pm

### A Meal & Message

Starts Sept. 10th      Thursdays 5:30-  
7:00pm

Free dinner, warm fellowship, a  
word of encouragement

### Celebrate Recovery

Fridays 5:30-7:00pm

Get help/healing for Hang-ups, Habits,  
& Hurts

Sunday School: 9:30am

Sunday AM Worship: 10:30am

Children's Church during preaching  
(approx. 11:30)

Sunday Evening Prayer: 5:00-6:00pm

### We are on the web....

[www.cliftonavechog.org](http://www.cliftonavechog.org)

All your  
words are  
true; all  
your  
righteous  
laws are  
eternal.  
Psalms  
119: 160

## Pastor Debbie's Corner

### **Fall Cleaning Party**

**Saturday, October 17, 11:30am-4:30pm**

We will meet directly after pantry for a pizza lunch. (Please bring \$5 each to cover the cost of food and drinks) We will then work together on various projects around the church such as cleaning and organizing the teacher's supply room, simple repairs, (bring your tool box), dusting window sills, cleaning bathrooms, decorating rooms, painting, and others as time permits.

We are asking everyone who calls this their church home to join us for this day so we can have our facility in great shape for ministry.